

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05
IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /076 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4432
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08816

FOR NEA-PALMER & WEISLOGEL FROM PADELFORD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS UK LY
SUBJECT: UKG POLICY ON MILITARY SALES TO LIBYA

1. HAD USEFUL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON MAY 25 WITH FCO OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR LIBYA.
2. HMG HAS CONSISTENTLY REJECTED OFFERS BY LIBYA TO BUY MAJOR ITEMS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SUBMARINES, ARMORED EQUIPMENT AND SOME AIR FORCE ITEMS. FCO OFFICER INDICATED THAT HMG WOULD CONTINUE TO REJECT SUCH OFFERS.
3. BRITISH POSITION ON SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO LIBYA BASED IN PART ON MORAL CONSIDERATIONS, I.E., NATURE OF QADHAFI, BUT ALSO INFLUENCED BY PARLIAMENTARY/PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON LIBYA.
4. HMG ATTITUDE ON SALES OF SEMI-MILITARY ITEMS SUCH AS RADAR, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT HANDLED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS WITH END USER SIGNIFICANT.

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5. HMG WOULD ALSO EXAMINE CLOSELY REQUESTS TO USE BRITISH-ORIGIN COMPONENTS IN FOREIGN AIRCRAFT (I.E., BRITISH ENGINES IN ITALIAN AIRCRAFT).
6. COMMENT: ON BASIS OF CONVERSATION, WE CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE COMMON GROUND WITH CURRENT USG POLICY ON SALES OF MILITARY OR MILITARY-RELATED EQUIP-

MENT TO LIBYA. HOWEVER, HMG UNLIKELY TAKE MUCH HARDER LINE UNLESS CONVINCED THAT HARDER LINE WOULD HAVE COM-
MENSURATE ADVANTAGES VIS-A-VIS QADHAFI CURRENT POLICIES.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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